and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, and are not in *dignity* equal to him. *Hooker, b.* ii. *ſ.* 6.

2. Grandeur of mien; elevation of aſpect.

Some men have a native *dignity*, which will procure them more regard by a look, than others can obtain by the moſt imperious commands. *Clariſſa.*

4. Advancement; preferment; high place.

Faſter than ſpring-time ſhow'rs comes thought on thought,
And not a thought but thinks on *dignity*. *Shakeſ. Henry* VI.
For thoſe of old,
And theſe late *dignities* heap'd up to them,
Shakeſpeare's Macbeth.

4. [Among eccleſiaſticks.] By a *dignity* we underſtand that promotion or preferment to which any juriſdiction is annexed. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*

5. Maxims; general principles; κυριαὶ δοξαὶ.

The ſciences concluding from *dignities*, and principles known by themſelves, receive not ſatisfaction from probable reaſons, much leſs from bare and peremptory aſſeverations. *Brown's Vulgar Errours, b.* i. *c.* 7.

6. [In aſtrology.] The planet is in dignity when it is in any ſign.

Digno'tion. *n. ſ.* [from *dignoſeo*, Lat.] Diſtinction; diſtinguiſhing mark.

That temperamental *dignotions*, and conjecture of prevalent humours, may be collected from ſpots in our nails, we are not averſe to concede. *Brown's Vulgar Errours, b.* v. *c.* 21.

To DIGRE'SS. *v. n.* [*digreſſus*, Latin.]

1. To turn out of the road.

2. To depart from the main deſign of a diſcourſe, or chief tenour of an argument.

In the purſuit of an argument there is hardly room to *digreſs* into a particular definition, as often as a man varies the ſignification of any term. *Locke.*

3. To wander; to expatiate.

It ſeemeth, to *digreſs* no farther, that the Tartarians, ſpreading ſo far, cannot be the Iſraelites. *Brerewood.*

4. To go out of the right way, or common track; to tranſgreſs; to deviate.

I am come to keep my word,
Though in ſome part am forced to *digreſs*,
Which at more leiſure I will ſo excuſe
As you ſhall well be ſatisfied. *Shak. Taming of the Shrew.*
Thy noble ſhape is but a form of wax,
Digreſſing from the valour of a man. *Shak. Romeo and Juliet.*

Digre'ssion. *n. ſ.* [*digreſſio*, Latin.]

1. A paſſage deviating from the main tenour or deſign of a diſcourſe.

The good man thought ſo much of his late conceived commonwealth, that all other matters were but *digreſſions* to him. *Sidney, b.* i.

He, ſhe knew, would intermix
Grateful *digreſſions*, and ſolve high diſpute
With conjugal careſſes. *Milton's Paradiſe Loſt, b.* viii.
Here ſome *digreſſion* I muſt make, t' accuſe
Thee, my forgetful and ungrateful muſe. *Denham.*

To content and fill the eye of the underſtanding, the beſt authors ſprinkle their works with pleaſing *digreſſions*, with which they recreate the minds of their readers. *Dryd. Dufreſn.*

2. Deviation.

The *digreſſion* of the ſun is not equal; but near the equinoctial interſections, it is right and greater; near the ſolſtices, more oblique and leſſer. *Brown's Vulgar Errours, b.* vi. *c.* 4.

Dijudica'tion. *n. ſ.* [*dijudicatio*, Latin.] Judicial diſtinction.

Dike. *n. ſ.* [dic, Saxon; *dyk*, Erſe.]

1. A channel to receive water.

The *dykes* are fill'd, and with a roaring ſound
The riſing rivers float the nether ground. *Dryd. Virg. Geo.*
The king of *dykes!* than whom no ſluice of mud
With deeper ſable blots the ſilver flood. *Pope's Dunciad.*

2. A mound to hinder inundations.

God, that breaks up the flood-gates of ſo great a deluge, and all the art and induſtry of man is not ſufficient to raiſe up *dykes* and ramparts againſt it. *Cowley's Davideis.*

To DILA'CERATE. *v. a.* [*dilacero*, Latin.] To tear; to rend; to force in two.

The infant, at the accompliſhed period, ſtruggling to come forth, *dilacerates* and breaks thoſe parts which reſtrained him before. *Brown's Vulgar Errours, b.* iii. *c.* 6.

Dilacera'tion. *n. ſ.* [from *dilaceratio*, Latin.] The act of rending in two.

The greateſt ſenſation of pain is by the obſtruction of the ſmall veſſels, and *dilaceration* of the nervous fibres. *Arbuthnot on Diet.*

To Dila'niate. *v. a.* [*dilanio*, Latin.] To tear; to rend in pieces.

Rather than they would *dilaniate* the entrails of their own mother, and expoſe her thereby to be raviſhed, they met half way in a gallant kind. *Howel's Engl. Tears.*

To DILA'PIDATE. *v. a.* [*dilapido*, Latin.] To ruin; to throw down.

Dilapida'tion. *n. ſ.* [*dilapidatio*, Latin.] The incumbent's ſuffering the chancel, or any other edifices of his eccleſiaſtical living, to go to ruin or decay, by neglecting to repair the ſame: and it likewiſe extends to his committing, or ſuffering to be committed, any wilful waſte in or upon the glebe-woods, or any other inheritance of the church. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*

'Tis the duty of all church-wardens to prevent the *dilapidations* of the chancel and manſion-houſe belonging to the rector or vicar. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*

Dilatabi'lity. *n. ſ.* [from *dilatable.*] The quality of admitting extenſion.

We take notice of the wonderful *dilatability* or extenſiveneſs of the gullets of ſerpents: I have taken two adult mice out of the ſtomach of an adder, whoſe neck was not bigger than my little finger. *Ray on the Creation.*

By this continual contractibility and *dilatability*, by different degrees of heat, the air is kept in a conſtant motion. *Arbuthn.*

Dila'table. *adj.* [from *dilate.*] Capable of extenſion.

The windpipe divides itſelf into a great number of branches called bronchia: theſe end in ſmall air-bladders, *dilatable* and contractable, capable to be inflated by the admiſſion of air, and to ſubſide at the expulſion of it. *Arbuthnot on Aliment.*

Dilata'tion. *n. ſ.* [from *dilatatio*, Latin.]

1. The act of extending into greater ſpace.

The motions of the tongue, by contraction and *dilatation*, are ſo eaſy and ſo ſubtle, that you can hardly conceive or diſtinguiſh them aright. *Holder.*

2. The ſtate of being extended; the ſtate in which the parts are at more diſtance from each other.

Joy cauſeth a cheerfulneſs and vigour in the eyes; ſinging, leaping, dancing, and ſometimes tears: all theſe are the effects of the *dilatation*, and coming forth of the ſpirits into the outward parts, which maketh them more lively and ſtirring. *Bacon's Natural Hiſtory.*

The image of the ſun ſhould be drawn out into an oblong form, either by a *dilatation* of every ray, or by any other caſual inequality of the refractions. *Newton's Opt. Experim.*

To DILA'TE. *v. a.* [*dilato*, Latin.]

1. To extend; to ſpread out; to enlarge.

But ye thereby much greater glory gate,
Than had ye ſorted with a prince's peer;
For now your light doth more itſelf *dilate*,
And in my darkneſs greater doth appear. *Spenſer.*
Satan alarm'd,
Collecting all his might, *dilated* ſtood,
Like Teneriff, or Atlas, unremov'd. *Milton's Paradiſe Loſt.*
Opener of mine eyes,
Dim erſt; *dilated* ſpirits, ampler heart,
And growing up to godhead: which for thee
Chiefly I ſought; without thee, can deſpiſe. *Milt. Pa. Loſt.*
Through all the air his ſounding ſtrings *dilate*
Sorrow, like that which touch'd our hearts of late. *Waller.*
Diffus'd, it riſes in a higher ſphere;
Dilates its drops, and ſoftens into air. *Prior.*
I mark the various fury of the winds;
Theſe neither ſeaſons guide, nor order binds:
They now *dilate*, and now contract their force;
Various their ſpeed, but endleſs is their courſe. *Prior.*

The ſecond refraction would ſpread the rays one way as much as the firſt doth another, and ſo *dilate* the image in breadth as much as the firſt doth in length. *Newton's Opt.*

2. To relate at large; to tell diffuſely and copiouſly.

But he would not endure that woful theam
For to *dilate* at large; but urged ſore,
With piercing words, and pitiful implore,
Him haſty to ariſe. *Fairy Queen, b.* ii. *cant.* 5. *ſtan.* 37.
I obſerving,
Took once a pliant hour, and found good means
To draw from her a prayer of earneſt heart,
That I would all my pilgrimage *dilate*,
Whereof by parcels ſhe had ſomething heard,
But not diſtinctively. *Shakeſpeare's Othello.*

To Dila'te. *v. n.*

1. To widen; to grow wide.

His heart *dilates* and glories in his ſtrength. *Addiſon.*

2. To ſpeak largely and copiouſly.

It may be behoveful for princes, in matters of grace, to tranſact the ſame publickly, and by themſelves; or their miniſters to *dilate* upon it, and improve their luſtre, by any addition or eloquence of ſpeech. *Clarendon.*

Dila'tor. *n. ſ.* [from *dilate.*] That which widens or extends.

The buccinatores, or blowers up of the cheeks, and the *dilators* of the noſe, are too ſtrong in cholerick people. *Arb.*

Di'latoriness. *n. ſ.* [from *dilatory.*] The quality of being dilatory; ſlowneſs; ſluggiſhneſs.

DI'LATORY. *adj.* [*dilatoire*, French; *dilatorius*, Lat.] Tardy; ſlow; given to procraſtination; addicted to delay; ſluggiſh; loitering.

An inferior council, after former tedious ſuits in a higher court, would be but *dilatory*, and ſo to little purpoſe. *Hayward.*

What wound did ever heal but by degrees?

Thou know'ſt we work by wit, and not by witchcraft;
And wit depends on *dilatory* time. *Shakeſpeare's Othello.*
Theſe cardinals trifle with me: I abhor
This *dilatory* ſloth, and tricks of Rome. *Shak. Henry* VIII.
Dilatory fortune plays the jilt
With the brave, noble, honeſt, gallant man,
To throw herſelf away on fools and knaves. *Otway's Orph.*

A *dilatory* temper commits innumerable cruelties without deſign. *Addiſon's Spectator*, N°. 469.

Dile'ction. *n. ſ.* [*dilectio*, Latin.] The act of loving; kindneſs.

So free is Chriſt's *dilection*, that the grand condition of our felicity is our belief. *Boyle's Seraph. Love.*

Dile'mma. *n ſ.* [δίλημμα.]

1. An argument equally concluſive by contrary ſuppoſitions. A young rhetorician applied to an old ſophiſt to be taught the art of pleading, and bargained for a certain reward to be paid, when he ſhould gain a cauſe. The maſter ſued for his reward, and the ſcholar endeavoured to elude his claim by a *dilemma*: If I gain my cauſe, I ſhall withold your pay, becauſe the judge's award will be againſt you; if I loſe it, I may withhold it, becauſe I ſhall not yet have gained a cauſe. On the contrary, ſays the maſter, if you gain your cauſe, you muſt pay me, becauſe you are to pay me when you gain a cauſe; if you loſe it, you muſt pay me, becauſe the judges will award it.

A *dilemma*, that biſhop Morton the chancellor uſed, to raiſe benevolence, ſome called his fork, and ſome his crutch. *Bacon's Henry* VII.

Hope, whoſe weak being ruin'd is
Alike if it ſucceed, and if it miſs;
Whom good or ill does equally confound,
And both the horns of fate's *dilemma* wound. *Cowley.*

2. A difficult or doubtful choice; a vexatious alternative.

A ſtrong *dilemma* in a deſp'rate caſe!
To act with infamy, or quit the place. *Swift.*
A dire *dilemma*; either way I'm ſped;
If foes, they write, if friends, they read me dead. *Pope.*

Di'ligence. *n ſ.* [*diligentia*, Latin.] Induſtry; aſſiduity; conſtancy in buſineſs; continuance of endeavour; uninterrupted application; the contrary to idleneſs.

Do thy *diligence* to come ſhortly unto me. 2 *Tim.* iv. 9.

Brethren, give *diligence* to make your calling and election ſure. 2 *Pet.* i. 10.

DI'LIGENT. *adj.* [*diligens*, Latin.]

1. Conſtant in application; perſevering in endeavour; aſſiduous; not idle; not negligent; not lazy.

Seeſt thou a man *diligent* in his buſineſs? he ſhall ſtand before kings. *Prov.* xxii. 29.

2. Conſtantly applied; proſecuted with activity and perſeverance; aſſiduous.

And the judges ſhall make *diligent* inquiſition. *Deutr.* xix.

Di'ligently. *adv.* [from *diligent.*] With aſſiduity; with heed and perſeverance; not careleſly; not idly; not negligently.

If you inquire not attentively and *diligently*, you ſhall never be able to diſcern a number of mechanical motions. *Bacon.*

The ancients have *diligently* examined in what conſiſts the beauty of good poſtures. *Dryden's Dufreſnoy.*

Dill. *n. ſ.* [dile, Saxon.]

It hath a ſlender, fibroſe, annual root: the leaves are like thoſe of fennel; the ſeeds are oval, plain, ſtreaked, and bordered.

Dill is raiſed of ſeed, which is ripe in Auguſt. *Mortimer.*

DILU'CID. *adj.* [*dilucidus*, Latin.]

1. Clear; plain; not opaque.

2. Clear; plain; not obſcure.

To Dilu'cidate. *v. a* [from *dilucidare*, Latin.] To make clear or plain; to explain; to free from obſcurity.

I ſhall not traduce or extenuate, but explain and *dilucidate*, according to the cuſtom of the ancients. *Brown's Vu. Err. Pr.*

Dilucida'tion. *n. ſ.* [from *dilucidatio.*] The act of making clear; explanation; expoſition.

DI'LUENT. *adj.* [*diluens*, Latin.] Having the power to thin and attenuate other matter.

Di'luent. *n. ſ.* [from the adjective.] That which thins other matter.

There is no real *diluent* but water: every fluid is diluent, as it contains water in it. *Arbuthnot on Aliments.*

To DILU'TE *v. a.* [*diluo*, Latin.]

1. To make thin; to attenuate by the admixture of other parts.

Drinking a large doſe of *diluted* tea, as ſhe was ordered by a phyſician, ſhe got to bed. *Locke.*

The aliment ought to be thin to *dilute*, demulcent to temper, or acid to ſubdue. *Arbuthnot on Aliments.*

2. To make weak.

If the red and blue colours were more *dilute* and weak, the diſtance of the images would be leſs than an inch; and if they were more intenſe and full, that diſtance would be greater. *Newton's Opt. Pro.* i. *Th.* 1.

The chamber was dark, leſt theſe colours ſhould be *diluted* and weakened by the mixture of any adventitious light. *Newt.*

Dilu'ter. *n ſ.* [from *dilute.*] That which makes any thing elſe thin.

Water is the only *diluter*, and the beſt diſſolvent of moſt of the ingredients of our aliment. *Arbuthnot on Aliments.*

Dilu'tion. *n. ſ.* [*dilutio*, Lat.] The act of making any thing thin or weak.

Oppoſite to *dilution* is coagulation, or thickening, which is performed by diſſipating the moſt liquid parts by heat, or by inſinuating ſome ſubſtances, which make the parts of the fluid cohere more ſtrongly. *Arbuthnot on Aliments.*

Dilu'vian. *adj.* [from *diluvium*, Lat.] Relating to the deluge.

Suppoſe that this *diluvian* lake ſhould riſe to the mountain tops in one place, and not diffuſe itſelf equally into all countries about. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

DIM. *adj.* dimme, Saxon; *dy*, Welſh; *dow*, Erſe.]

1. Not having a quick ſight; not ſeeing clearly.

For her true form, how can my ſpark diſcern,
Which, *dim* by nature, art did never clear? *Davies.*

2. Dull of apprehenſion.

The underſtanding is *dim*, and cannot by its natural light diſcover ſpiritual truths. *Rogers's Sermons.*

3. Not clearly ſeen; obſcure; imperfectly diſcovered.

We might be able to aim at ſome *dim* and ſeeming conception, how matter might begin to exiſt by the power of that eternal firſt Being. *Locke.*

Something, as *dim* to our internal view,
Is thus perhaps the cauſe of all we do. *Pope, Epiſt.* i.

4. Obſtructing the act of viſion; not luminous; ſomewhat dark.

Her face right wond'rous fair did ſeem to be,
That her broad beauty's beam great brightneſs threw
Through the *dim* ſhade, that all men might it ſee. *Fai. Qu.*

To Dim. *v. a.* [from the adjective.]

1. To cloud; to darken; to hinder from a full perception of light, and free exerciſe of viſion.

As where the Almighty's lightning brand does light,
It *dims* the dazed eyen, and daunts the ſenſes quite. *Fa. Qu.*

It hath been obſerved by the ancients, that much uſe of Venus doth *dim* the ſight; and yet eunuchs, which are unable to generate, are neverthele ſs alſo *dim* ſighted. *Bacon's N. Hiſt.*

Every one declares againſt blindneſs, and yet who almoſt is not fond of that which *dims* his ſight? *Locke.*

For thee I *dim* theſe eyes, and ſtuff this head,
With all ſuch reading as was never read. *Pope's Dunciad.*

2. To make leſs bright; to obſcure.

A ſhip that through the ocean wide,
By conduct of ſome ſtar doth make her way,
When as a ſtorm hath *dimm'd* her truſty guide,
Out of her courſe doth wander far aſtray. *Spenſer.*
Siſter, have comfort: all of us have cauſe
To wail the *dimming* of our ſhining ſtar;
But none can help our harms by wailing them. *Shak. R.* III.
Thus while he ſpake, each paſſion *dimm'd* his face,
Thrice chang'd. *Milton's Paradiſe Loſt, b.* iv. *l.* 114.

DIME'NSION. *n. ſ.* [*dimenſio*, Latin.] Space contained in any thing; bulk; extent; capacity. It is ſeldom uſed but in the plural. The three dimenſions are length, breadth, and depth.

He try'd
The tomb, and found the ſtrait *dimenſions* wide. *Dryden.*

My gentleman was meaſuring my walls, and taking the *dimenſions* of the room. *Swift.*

Dime'nsionless. *adj.* [from *dimenſion.*] Without any definite bulk.

In they paſs'd
Dimenſionleſs through heav'nly doors. *Milton's Paradiſe Loſt.*

Dime'nsive. *adj.* [*dimenſus*, Latin.] That which marks the boundaries or outlines.

All bodies have their meaſure, and their ſpace;
But who can draw the ſoul's *dimenſive* lines? *Davies.*

Dimica'tion. *n. ſ.* [*dimicatio*, Latin.] A battle; the act of fighting; conteſt. *Dict.*

Dimidia'tion. *n. ſ.* [*dimidiatio*, Latin.] The act of halving; diviſion into two equal parts. *Dict.*

To DIMI'NISH. *v. a.* [*diminuo*, Latin.]

1. To make leſs by abſciſſion or deſtruction of any part: the oppoſite to increaſe.

That we call good which is apt to cauſe or increaſe pleaſure, or *diminiſh* pain in us. *Locke.*

2. To impair; to leſſen; to degrade.

Impiouſly they thought
Thee to *diminiſh*, and from thee withdraw
The number of thy worſhippers. *Milton's Paradiſe Loſt.*

4. To take any thing from that to which it belongs: the contrary to add.

Nothing was *diminiſhed* from the ſafety of the king by the impriſonment of the duke. *Hayward.*

Ye ſhall not add unto the word which I command you, neither ſhall you *diminiſh* aught from it. *Deut.* iv. 2.

To Dimi'nish. *v. n.* To grow leſs; to be impaired.

What judgment I had increaſes rather than *diminiſhes*; and thoughts, ſuch as they are, come crowding in ſo faſt upon me, that my only difficulty is to chuſe or to reject. *Dryden.*